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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,960	05/01/2001	David Bassett	2079.002900/P4323	4934

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EXAMINER

THAI, XUAN MARIAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2181

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/846,960

Applicant(s)

BASSETT ET AL.

Examiner

XUAN M. THAI

Art Unit

2181

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ervin et al. (USPN 6,591,322; hereinafter Ervin).

As per claims 1 and 12, Ervin discloses the claimed invention including a method and apparatus for controllably delivering signals on a bus wherein the bus is comprised of a first (private I2C bus segment; col. 6, lines 7-9) and second segment (multimaster I2C bus segment; col. 5, lines 64-65), the method comprising: monitoring the first bus segment for the presence of a first signal being driven thereon (polling; col. 8, lines 10-30); repeating the first signal on the second bus segment (retransmits the transactions on a multimaster bus segment; col. 5, lines 64-65); and preventing the first signal from being repeated on the first bus (e.g. blocking internet traffic from entering the corporate intranet or ... pass I2C traffic transparently from the private I2C segment to multimaster bus segment, but not vice versa; col. 6, lines 1-9).

3. Claims 1, 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Morrow. (US2002/0078289).

Art Unit: 2181

As per claims 1, 2 and 12, Morrow discloses the claimed invention including a method and apparatus for controllably delivering signals on a bus wherein the bus is comprised of a first (primary bus segment A 102; fig. 2) and second segment (primary bus segment B 104), the method comprising: monitoring the first bus segment for the presence of a first signal being driven thereon; repeating the first signal on the second bus segment; and preventing the first signal from being repeated on the first bus (e.g. the repeater accepts and forward transactions that are not claimed by other bus segment devices on one bus segment interface to another segment but do not go in the reverse thus preventing the first signal from being repeated on the same bus segment; e.g. page 1, para 4). And vice versa. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 12 are rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. Claim 13 is allowed.
6. Prior art such as Ervin et al. discloses a method and apparatus for connecting a single device and a multimaster I2C bus system. The "firewall" apparatus transforms all multimaster bus errors into simple NAK errors and isolates the single bus master from the multimaster bus segment. However, the prior art do not teach all the specific combination as claimed in the above claims mentioned as being allowable.

Art Unit: 2181

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Prior arts such as Garney et al. (6,389,501); Daines et al. (6,192,422) ; Leung (5,613,077) ; Paulsen et al. (5,530,813) ; and Milligan (5,528,765) teaches segmented bus systems.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to XUAN M. THAI whose telephone number is 703-308-2064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



XUAN M. THAI
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2181

XMT
October 27, 2003